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Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Ms. Aida Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.22

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976,[1] and of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996,[2]

Recalling also relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), as well as relevant decisions and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Reaffirming the outcome document, entitled "The future we want", of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,[3]

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[1] *Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. II.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6).

[3] Resolution 66/288, annex.

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Recognizing the progress made in meeting and even surpassing Millennium Development Goal 7, target 11, while noting that slums continue to be a global challenge,

Acknowledging that, while significant progress has been made in implementing the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements[4] and the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda,[5] challenges remain, such as the continuing increase of slum dwellers in the world, the negative impact of environmental degradation, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, on human settlements and the need to reduce disaster risks and build resilience to disasters in urban settlements,

Cognizant of the fact that these challenges may hinder the work towards improving the quality of human settlements, including the living and working conditions of both urban and rural dwellers, and achieving a safe and healthy living environment for all,

Recognizing that cities are engines of economic growth and that, if they are well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, they can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies,

Recalling paragraphs 134 to 137 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", on sustainable cities and human settlements,

Noting the ongoing review of the governance structure of UN-Habitat, which aims to improve its transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness,

Recognizing that the World Urban Forum is the foremost global arena for interaction among policymakers, local government leaders, non-government stakeholders and expert practitioners in the field of human settlements, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Italy and the city of Naples for hosting the sixth session of the Forum from 1 to 7 September 2012,

Recalling its resolutions 64/207 of 21 December 2009, 65/165 of 20 December 2010, and 66/207 of 22 December 2011, which addressed the convening in 2016 of a follow-up conference to Habitat II,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda[6] and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);[7]

2. *Encourages* giving appropriate consideration to sustainable urbanization in the elaboration of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring consistency and coherence in the deliberations of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on agenda items related to the work of UN-Habitat;

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[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[5] Ibid., annex II.

[6] See A/67/316.

[7] A/67/263.

4. *Reaffirms* its decision to convene in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), welcomes the offer of the Government of Turkey to host the conference in Istanbul in 2016, and invites participation in the conference at the highest possible level;

5. *Welcomes* the appointment of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat by the Secretary-General to serve as Secretary-General of the conference and to act as focal point on behalf of the United Nations system;

6. *Decides* that:

(a) The objective of the conference will be to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development, assess accomplishments to date, address poverty and identify and address new and emerging challenges, and the focus of the conference will include, but not be limited to, the theme "Sustainable urban development: the future of urbanization", to be discussed and refined during the preparatory process;

(b) The conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document, which shall reinvigorate the global commitment to and support for housing and sustainable urban development and the implementation of a "New Urban Agenda";

(c) The conference and its preparatory process should take into account and build upon the principles and gains achieved through the implementation of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[8] Agenda 21,[9] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[10] the Habitat Agenda,[3] the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[11] and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,[12] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[13] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[14] as well as the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;[4]

7. *Also decides* to establish a Preparatory Committee to carry out the preparations for the conference;

8. *Further decides* that the conference and its Preparatory Committee shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency;

9. *Decides*, while remaining mindful of the need to carry out the conference and the preparatory process in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner, that:

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[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[9] Ibid., annex II.

[10] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[11] Resolution S-25/2, annex.

[12] Resolution 55/2.

[13] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[14] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

(a) The Preparatory Committee will meet three times before the opening of the conference;

(b) The first meeting of the Preparatory Committee will be held in New York, for a period of two days, during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

(c) The second meeting of the Preparatory Committee will be held in Nairobi in 2015, for a period of three days, taking full advantage of the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat;

(d) The venue and duration of the third and final Preparatory Committee meeting will be considered by the General Assembly no later than at its sixty-ninth session, before the end of 2014;

(e) The Preparatory Committee, when considering the rules of procedure of the Committee and the provisional rules of procedure of the conference, will take into consideration the rules of procedure of Habitat II endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/100 of 2 February 1996 and the established practice of the General Assembly;

10. *Also decides* to consider the final dates, format and organizational aspects of the conference no later than at its sixty-ninth session, before the end of 2014;

11. *Encourages* effective contributions from and the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, including local governments, major groups as identified in Agenda 21, the relevant United Nations funds and programmes, the regional commissions and specialized agencies, the international financial institutions and other Habitat Agenda partners, at all stages of the preparatory process and at the conference itself, and requests the Secretary-General of the conference to make proposals to the Preparatory Committee on the improved participation of local authorities and other stakeholders in the preparatory process and the conference itself, building on the positive experience of the rules and procedures of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and the inclusive engagement modalities of Habitat II;

12. *Also encourages* stakeholders gathered at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, as well as at the regular ministerial conferences on housing and urban development and other relevant expert group meetings, to provide inputs and to contribute as appropriate to the process leading to the conference;

13. *Decides* to establish a trust fund for the conference, and in this regard:

(a) *Urges* international and bilateral donors as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors in a position to do so to support the preparations for the conference through voluntary contributions to the trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries to the Preparatory Committee meetings and to the conference itself;

(b) *Invites* voluntary contributions to support the participation of Habitat Agenda partners to the Preparatory Committee meetings;

(c) *Requests* the Secretary-General of the conference, when using the resources of the trust fund, to prioritize the coverage of economy class air tickets,

daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses, and to report on the use of the trust fund to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-fifth session;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the conference to prepare, using the expertise of the United Nations system, a proposal for consideration by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-fourth session as to how best to provide inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the conference in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner, and to proceed accordingly;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide, in the most efficient and cost-effective manner, all appropriate support to the Secretary-General of the conference and to the work of the preparatory process and the conference, while promoting to the maximum possible extent inter-agency support;

16. *Takes note* with appreciation of the completion of the organizational review undertaken by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat;

17. *Invites* the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to present to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, as appropriate, the outcomes of the governance review process for consideration by the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, and encourages the Executive Director, together with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to continue their efforts in order to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of UN-Habitat;

18. *Welcomes* the progress in the elaboration of the strategic plan for the period 2014-2019 and its focus areas;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including an update on progress made in the preparations for the conference;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN- Habitat)".